

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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----- 115573

R 111610Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7578

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBABANE 0258

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, ECON, OREP, SF, US, WZ (DIGGS, C.C.)

SUBJECT: CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO SWAZILAND

1. SUMMARY. CODEL DIGGS HAS ACTIVE AND SUCCESSFUL VISIT IN SWAZILAND FEB. 6 THROUGH 8. DURING THESE TWO DAYS, CODEL WAS GUEST AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY PM, AND MET WITH FIVE GOS MINISTERS, COUNTRY TEAM, PCV AND CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL REFUGEE COMMITTEE. DISCUSSIONS COVERED LOCAL AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS. CODEL WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY GOS OFFICIALS, AND HIS VISIT WAS THE TOP STORY IN THE LOCAL MEDIA WHILE HE WAS IN SWAZILAND. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHEDULE. CODEL ARRIVED AFTERNOON OF FEB. 6 VIA DAO AIRCRAFT FROM GABORONE. FOLLOWING BRIEFING BY COUNTRY TEAM, CODEL WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER PRINCE MAKHOSINI. FOLLOWING DAY, CODEL MET WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZONKE KHUMALO; PRIME MINISTER; MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, MINES & TOURISM S.S.

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NXUMALO; MINISTER OF WORKS, POWER & COMMUNICATIONS DR. ALLAN NXUMALO; AND MINISTER OF FINANCE STEPHENS. CODEL

ALSO LUNCED WITH COUNTRY TEAM AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE, RECORDED AN INTERVIEW WITH SWAZILAND BROADCASTING SERVICE, MET PRIVATELY WITH JOE MKWANAZI, CHAIRMAN OF LOCAL REFUGEES' COMMITTEE, AND ATTENDED INFORMAL DINNER GIVEN BY S.S. NXUMALO. ON SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 8, CODEL MET WITH ABOUT 20 PCVS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR JAN SMUTS VIA DAO AIRCRAFT. EMBOFF WAS PRESENT AT ALL MEETINGS EXCEPT THAT WITH MKWANAZI. PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE THE FOLLOWING:

3. REFUGEES. DPM, WHO HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR REFUGEE AFFAIRS IN GOS, TOLD CODEL THAT GOS HAD ACCEPTED ABOUT 100 POLITICAL REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE. SINCE FRELIMO HAD TAKEN OVER IN MOZAMBIQUE, REFUGEES FROM THAT COUNTRY HAD RETURNED, (EXCEPT FOR A FEW WHO HAD DECIDED TO SETTLE IN SWAZILAND) AS RESULT COOPERATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN GOS AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL FRELIMO REPS. A NUMBER OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA REMAINED. GOS WAS WILLING TO HELP THESE PEOPLE PROVIDED THEY ABSTAINED FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AS REQUIRED. HOWEVER, TWO HAD FAILED TO DO SO AND WERE IN PRISON. DPM ASKED IF USG COULD NOT MODIFY ITS LAWS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR U.S. TO ACCEPT SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL REFUGEES IF THEY WANTED TO MOVE ON. REP DIGGS REPLIED THAT BECAUSE OF ILLEGAL ENTRY PROBLEM FROM MEXICO AND ELSEWHERE AND CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN U.S., THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO PREMITTING INCREASED IMMIGRATION.

4. SUGAR. FOUR OF THE MINISTERS THAT CODEL CALLED ON EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. SUGAR QUOTA AND HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GUARANTEED MARKET FOR SWAZI SUGAR EXPORTS. IN REPLY, REP. DIGGS DESCRIBED CHANGE OF HOUSE AG COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP WHICH HE THOUGH WOULD BE MORE FAVORABLE TO SWAZI INTERESTS. HE URGED GOS TO RETAIN A LOBBYIST/PR FIRM WHICH HAD GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH THIS NEW LEADERSHIP. DIGGS ALSO MENTIONED THAT CONTINUED SWAZI EXPORTS OF SUGAR TO THE U.S. IN '75 WOULD HELP TO ASSURE A SUBSTANTIAL QUOTA IF AND WHEN NEW LEGISLATION IS PASSED.

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5. MOZAMBIQUE. IN DISCUSSION WITH THA PM, DIGGS REFERRED TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO L.M. AND STATED THAT FRELIMO GOVERNMENT APPEARED TO BE STABLE AND CONCERNED WITH THE INTERESTS OF ITS NEIGHBORS. PM REPLIED THAT FRELIMO WAS BEHAVING MORE MODERATELY THAN MAY HAD PREDICTED. HE SAID CLOSE COOPERATION WAS DEVELOPING BETWEEN FRELIMO AND THE GOS, WHICH IS NOW BUYING PROPERTY IN LOURENCO MARQUES FOR ITS NEW EMBASSY.

6. REGIONAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. S.S. NXUMALO GAVE

CODEL AN INTERESTING REVIEW OF WAY IN WHICH HE THOUGHT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHER AFRICA MIGHT EVOLVE (BEING REPORTED SEPTIL). CODEL ALSO RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH PM, WHO REMARKED THAT VORSTER IS PUSHING SMITH TO GRANT THE KINDS OF CONCESSIONS IN RHODESIA THAT HE, VORSTER, IS UNWILLING TO MAKE IN SOUTH AFRICA (SUCH AS RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES). PM REMARKED, "WE NEED STRONG USG SUPPORT FOR RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE." DIGGS AGREED AND PROMISED TO REPORT THE PM'S VIEWS IN WASHINGTON.

7. DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. CODEL DISCUSSED SWAZILAND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS WITH PM, MINISTER OF FINANCE STEPHENS, AND MINISTER OF WORKS NXUMALO. THE PM EMPHASIZED SWAZILAND'S EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, CITING A CURRENT SHORTAGE OF 200 TEACHERS. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AID ASSISTANCE IN THE CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, THE SUPPLY OF PEACE CORPS TEACHERS, AND MENTIONED RECENT WORLD BANK LOAN FOR EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES. DR. ALLAN NXUMALO REFERRED TO THE THERMAL POWER PROJECT, WHICH HE EXPECTS WILL GET UNDERWAY SOON, AND SAID SWAZILAND WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE HIGH-LEVEL TRAINING FOR ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL IN THE U.S. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD SOON BE MEETING WITH HIS SOUTH AFRICAN COUNTERPART TO TRY TO ARRANGE FOR INCREASED SOUTHERN AFRICAN USE OF THE SWAZILAND RAILROAD.

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ACTION H-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBABANE 0258

MINISTER OF FINANCE STEPHENS SAID THAT GOS IS FACED WITH THE PROBLEM OF CREATING 4,000 NEW JOBS EVERY YEAR FOR YOUNG SWAZIS WHO ARE ENTERING THE LABOR MARKET. VARIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED, INCLUDING THE THIRD SUGAR SCHEME, JAPANESE INTEREST IN A NEW WOOD PUPL FOREST PROJECT, AND A NEW HOTEL/CASINO COMPLEX IN THE SOUTHEAST. SWAZILAND, HE SAID, NEEDS MORE TARRED ROADS AND ELECTRIC POWER; THE PROBLEM IS HOW TO GET LOW-COST, LONG-TERM FINANCING. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY REP. DIGGS, STEPHENS SAID THE ARAB STATES HAD BEEN "NIBBLING" BUT HAD NOT YET AGREED TO FINANCE A MAJOR PROJECT. "THEY ALWAYS WANT SOMETHING IN EXCHANGE," HE SAID. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF FORTHCOMING CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, STEPHENS, WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, SAID SWAZI CITIZENS HAD CLEARLY INDICATED THEIR DESIRE NOT TO HAVE POLITICAL PARTIES. COMMISSION'S PROBLEM, THEREFORE, WAS TO DEVISE A SYSTEM WHICH WOULD BE REASONABLY REPRESENTATIVE AND RESPONSIVE WITHOUT PARTIES. IN RESPONSE TO CODEL'S QUESTION, STEPHENS SAID NEW CONSTITUTION WOULD INCLUDE A BILL OF RIGHTS.

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8. U.S./SWAZI RELATIONS. IN HIS SPEECH OF WELCOME TO CODEL AT RECEPTION FEB. 6, THE PM REFERRED WITH CONCERN TO THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE USE OF FORCE IN SOME CIRCUMSTANCES. DURING MEETING WITH PM NEXT DAY, REP. DIGGS ALLUDED TO PM'S COMMENT AND SAID THAT THE SECRETARY'S REMARK WAS FREQUENTLY QUOTED OUT OF CONTEXT. DIGGS NOTED THAT CONGRESS NOW HAS MORE POWER TO PREVENT UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE. ON OTHER HAND, HE SAID, ANY NATION WILL ACT IF ITS VITAL INTERESTS ARE THREATENED. IN DISCUSSION WITH STEPHENS, REP. DIGGS ASKED ABOUT BARRIERS TO U.S. INVESTMENT. STEPHENS SAID THAT IN THE PAST U.S. FIRMS INTERESTED IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET HAVE LOCATED IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF IN ORDER TO BE CLOSER TO SUPPLYING INDUSTRIES, AS WELL AS PRINCIPAL MARKETS. SO FAR, THEY HAD NOT SHOWN MUCH INTEREST IN SELLING TO OTHER BLACK AFRICAN STATES, WHERE LOCATION IN SWAZILAND WOULD BE AN ADVANTAGE. IN ENCOURAGING FOREIGN INVESTMENT, GOS ALSO HAD TO COMPETE WITH SAG POLICY OF ENCOURAGING NEW INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT IN THE BATUSTANS. LANE

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